

Covid Narrative November 16, 2020

Selectman Andrew Goodrich reminded residents that the Special Town Meeting is tonight (Nov. 16) at 7 p.m. at the Scituate High School gymnasium. He said all Covid safety protocols are being followed. He urged residents to be conscious of the folks around them, practice social distancing, and keep their masks on.

Selectmen also meet tomorrow (Tuesday, Nov. 17) at 6:30 p.m. with a packed agenda. Citizens can attend via Zoom. The link is posted on the agenda on the town website: scituatema.gov.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said Scituate saw 22 new Covid cases reported over the past week. Several came from a household where a member already had the virus or are multiple cases from the same household.

He said the town may be seeing a high number due to a Halloween bounce. Mr. Boudreau stressed that while citizens are experiencing Covid fatigue, they need to remain vigilant. He said the rules include wearing a mask outside whether you can be socially distant or not. The

state allows for a \$300 fine for not wearing a mask outside.

He said the state allows for levying fines of \$500 for every person over ten at an indoor gathering. Indoor gatherings are limited to ten people and outdoor gatherings to 25.

Mr. Boudreau said the other guidelines require people stay at home between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Restaurants must stop in-person service by 9:30 p.m. but takeout is allowed after that time. Liquor stores and retail establishments with liquor have to cease sales by 9:30 p.m.

The reservoir is 37.14 percent full. Usage is at 475,000 gallons per day down from 522,000 the previous week.

The water department will continue the flushing program depending on the water supply and weather conditions. The water department is conducting no-contact, seasonal shut-offs. If a resident wants a shut-off, then go to the water department tab on the town website to fill out the form. [Scituatema.gov]

Cushing Hill Road off Neal Gate Road was paved last week. The road, which had been riddled with potholes for a decade, leads to Cushing State Park and is owned by

the Commonwealth. He thanked state officials for their help in making this happen. Cushing Park will be put on the list next spring for acceptance as a public way.

The loud noise that residents heard on Saturday night was from a large, airborne, firework set off at Egypt Beach. Boudreau said police and fire made that determination after investigating the noise.

The School Committee will conduct a brief meeting via Zoom at 6 p.m. before tonight's Special Town Meeting. Check the website: scituate.k12.ma.us.

Superintendent of Schools William Burkhead praised the communication and cooperation between home and schools for the success of the schools reopening plan. He said the school department is preparing for a full return at some point. The Safe and Strong reopening task force is working with the Medical Advisory Committee in that regard.

While there have been several Covid cases in families, there is no evidence of in-school spread. Burkhead said affected families have been responsible in quarantining after exposure even before the students tested positive.

Burkhead praised two induction ceremonies: The National Honor Society and History Honor Society. He thanked those involved for the success of the events.

He also gave shout-outs to the School Committee which is working on goals and for the hard-working administrative assistants and secretaries during this difficult year.